As Good Fortune would have it, completing a book about fraud means that I have a great many upstanding and outstanding people to thank. In abandoning my dissertation to begin work on Home Economics, I kept with me the indispensable wisdom of Helena Michie, Bob Patten, and Marty Wiener, who trained me to be both an ambitious reader and a respectful historian. At Rice University and since, I have benefited immensely from the intellectual rigor, good humor, and camaraderie of Caroline Levander, Chuck Jackson, Andrew Yerkes, Louise Penner, Jill Carroll, Myanna Lahsen, Mitra Emad, and Padmaja Challakere. To Eileen Cleere, I owe a special debt of gratitude for being so smart and inspiring, for reading drafts of chapters, and for being so much fun.

An NEH Summer Stipend, and Andrew Mellon Fellowships at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center and the Huntington Library were instrumental to conducting the research for this book. The University of South Carolina provided crucial travel support and the release time that allowed me to complete this project; before that, Ball State University provided much-appreciated summer funding for research and writing. Among the many librarians who have helped me over the years, I am particularly grateful to Julie Anne Lambert at the Bodleian Library’s John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera. Without her wide-reaching knowledge and deep generosity of resources, I might never have “met” the Tichborne Claimant, nor have encountered the rich wealth of ephemera and ballads that fill out...
Acknowledgments

these pages. Pat Fox at the Ransom Center in Austin was unerringly cheerful as I submitted a barrage of pink, yellow, and blue slips. My time in Austin was joyful and productive, and I am grateful to the staff at the HRC for their part in that joy. In getting this manuscript “between boards,” I have taken real pleasure in working with the The Ohio State University Press; particular thanks to Eugene O’Connor for helping me navigate the perilous waters of copyedits, and to Sandy Crooms, my acquisitions editor, who gave this book a home.

I could not have written *Home Economics* without the smart insights, sustained encouragement, and capacity for laughter of many friends and colleagues. I began my work at Ball State University, where Lauren Onkey, Bob Nowatzski, Kecia McBride, and Pat Collier offered this book its first feedback. Chris Thompson, Beth Campbell, Eric Lassiter, Frank Trechsel, Carolyn Mackay and Larry Nesper fed me well, both literally and intellectually, and kept me laughing. To Tom Koontz, Patti White, Joe Trimmer, and Paul Ranieri, I offer sincere thanks for being so wonderful and so understanding.

The gang at the Dickens Universe heard and responded to early portions of the introduction, and provided encouraging words at key moments. Sincere thanks to John Jordan, John Bowen, Jim Buzzard, Joe Childers, Amanda Claybaugh, Carolyn Dever, Natalka Freeland, Eileen Gilloly, Gerhard Joseph, Priti Joshi, Sally Ledger, Carol MacKay, Teresa Mangum, Andrew Miller, Catherine Robson, Hillary Schor, Carolyn Williams, Alex Woloch, Robyn Warhol, and Susan Zieger. The insights, scholarship, and evolving work of fellow Victorianists Emily Allen, Nancy Henry, Tim Alborn, George Robb, Jen Hill, Leila May, John Plotz, Marlene Tromp, and Tammy Whitlock have helped me to develop my own ideas, and inspired me to attempt intellectual feats that, if not readily attainable, have nonetheless led me to climb. I have deeply enjoyed sharing with Ellen Rosenman attachments to both the Yelvertons and *Mary Price*. Maria LaMonaca was my writing buddy for the crucial years of completing the manuscript; for her camaraderie, generous readings, and good humor, I am thankful. Celeste Pottier was a wonderful research assistant and friend as I prepared, at long last, to let the manuscript out of my hands.

I will tell anyone who asks how much I adore my colleagues at the University of South Carolina. The book owes a great deal to the rigor and acumen of Greg Forter, Susan Courtney, Nina Levine, Mindy Fenske, John Muckelbauer, Carol Harrison, Tony Jarrells, Gretchen Woertendyke, Holly Crocker, Dan Smith, and Ed Gieskes, many of whom participated in the colloquium that helped me to sort through my most recalcitrant chapter. As I worked towards completing the manuscript, they were steady sources of support and
inspiration. And Steve Lynn was the best Chair ever, in the whole history of the world.

To my dear, dear family and friends who are family, I offer deep gratitude. Laura Helper deserves special mention as my writing comrade of over a decade now—in the darkest nights of revision, she was shiny and bright, a warm and wonderful star. I couldn’t have done it without her. Rachel, Laurie, Leah, Stephanie, Sara, Jeanne, Max, Thelma, Suki, and Becky: you women rock my world and I love you for it. Annette and Mel; Liz, Michel, Alexander, and Aidan; Jon, Elisa, and baby Leo; Kenny and Beth; Evan; Benjy and Toni—I love you all so much. Thank you.
